

MARCH 28, 1994

TIME

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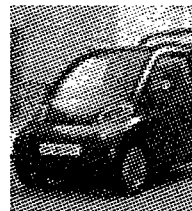


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Tiger, Tiger, Fading Fast

Pressures from poaching and human population growth have pushed the big cats to the brink of extinction. Can trade sanctions against nations that use tiger parts protect the animal when parks, police, and appeals to public opinion have failed?

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By EUGENE LINDEN

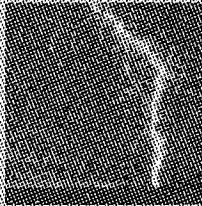
NAGARAHOLE - The great beast seems to materialize out of the dusk - a striped vision of might and mystery. Emerging from a thicket in southern India's Nagarahole National Park, the Bengal tigress is hungry and ready to begin another night's hunt. To nourish her 500-lb. body, she must kill a sambar deer, a boar or some other big animal every week of her adult life. Fortunately for her, Nature has given tigers the prowess to prey upon creatures far larger than the cats

► **Parts & Potions**

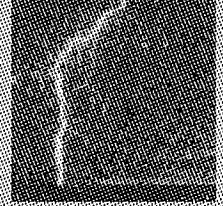
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MARCH 26, 1994

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Tigers On The Brink

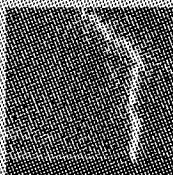


Once considered a conservation success story, they are again sliding towards extinction. This time the world's nations may not be able to save the great cats.

By Eugene Linden Nagarahale

The great beast seems to materialize out of the dusk—a striped vision of night and mystery. Emerging from a thicket in southern India's Nagarahale National Park, the Bengal tigress is hungry and ready to begin another night's hunt. To nourish her 500-lb. body, she must kill a sambar deer, a boar or some other big animal every week of her adult life. Fortunately for her, Nature has given tigers the prowess to prey upon creatures far larger than the cats are. Her massive shoulders and forelimbs can grip and bring down a gaur, a wild oxlike animal that may weigh more than a ton. Her powerful jaws and daggerlike teeth can rip the victim's throat or sever its spinal column, making quick work of the kill. But there will be no killing at this moment. After padding along a park road for a mere 100 yds., the tigress abruptly melts into the brush—here one instant, gone the next. Watching her disappear, Indian biologist Ulfas Kierath of New York's Wildlife Conservation Society breaks into a knowing smile. "When you see a tiger," he muses, "it is always like a dream."

All too soon, dreams may be the only place where tigers roam freely. Already the Nagarahale tigress is not free. If she hunts during the day, she may run into a car load of tourists, cameras

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